

Eggs to be tested for antibodies

BY KIMBERLY HERR

LANCASTER — In the continuing effort to eradicate the deadly Avian influenza, eggs from some 300 flocks will be tested for influenza antibodies.

Tim Allwein, a spokesman for the Pa. Poultry Federation, stressed the testing will be done only one time. It will not involve continual testing. He explained that all of the testing will be done in egg processing plants in the quarantine area.

According to Allwein, the question now is to determine what action to take if the eggs test positive for the influenza.

Allwein said the USDA Scientific and Technical Advisory Council is recommending that the flocks with positive eggs be killed, which could result in the depopulation of two to three million birds. Some of these flocks, according to Allwein, may be those that have been repopulated. No definite decision has been made at this time.

In other developments, Allwein said "We do have word that they (the USDA) is working on a formula to adjust the indemnity rate upward."

Allwein said they had no details as to the rate, at this point, but said the payments will be retroactive,

beginning probably from the time the Task Force arrived in Lancaster.

Also, Allwein announced there has been a change in the policy of payments for depopulated birds. Owners of the birds can now request payment immediately after the birds have been killed or wait until they are ready to repopulate their flock. Owners will receive full replacement value for their flock, but the amount will depend on market prices at the time payment is made.

Prior to this change in policy, Allwein said, owners were at the

mercy of how long it took for everything to be processed before they got their money.

In other policy news, Allwein said, as of March 28, any un-sanitized nest run eggs for table use can move only from flocks that are on the poultry watch and are determined to be free of Avian influenza. This also applies to any birds that will be moving within the quarantine zone.

In other news, Allwein announced that the quarantine in Maryland may be dropped by the end of March. The contaminated flock in that state is soon ready to be repopulated, he said.

Pork producers seminar

LANCASTER — The Professional Pork Producers Seminar will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Dr. Maynard Hogberg, Extension swine specialist, Michigan State University, will be the keynote speaker for the day. He will speak at 10 a.m. on Identifying Finishing Inefficiencies.

Other topics include: Minimizing

Risks in the Hog Business, Pork Value Program, Fine Tuning Nutritional Needs, Receiving Programs for Feeder Pigs and What Can Microcomputers Do to Improve Efficiency?

Cost for the day is \$25 per farm or per organization. This cost includes one lunch. Additional lunches are \$5.

Contact Extension Agent Chet Hughes at 394-6851 for reservations.

Weekly Summary

Friday, March 16
Report supplied by PDA

CATTLE: 7257. Compared with 7273 head last week, and 6979 head a year ago. Compared with last week's market: Slaughter steers & bulls unevenly steady; Sl. heifers steady to 1.00 higher; Sl. cows 1.00-2.00 lower; Sl. bullocks mostly steady. Sl. steers: High Choice & Prime 69.50-72.50; Choice 65.00-70.50; Good 58.00-67.00; Standard 50.00-60.00. Sl. heifers; Choice 60.00-69.00; Good 55.00-63.00; (few) Standard 46.00-56.00. Sl. cows: Breaking Utility & Commercial 43.00-49.00; Cutter & Boning Utility 39.00-46.00; Canner & L. Cutter 33.00-42.00; Shells down to 25.00. Sl. bullocks: (few) Choice 61.00-66.00; Good 53.50-61.00. Sl. bulls: Yield Grade No. 1 1200-2200 lbs. 48.00-58.00; Yield Grade No. 2 900-1300 lbs. 33.00-50.00.

FEEDER CATTLE: Steers, Medium & Large Frame No. 1 300-700 lbs. 58.00-66.00. Heifers, Medium & Large Frame No. 1 350-700 lbs. 48.00-58.00. Bulls, (few) Medium & Large Frame No. 1 350-650 lbs. 55.00-65.00.

CALVES: 4338. Compared with 4365 head last week and 4043 head a year ago. Vealers steady to 5.00 lower. (few) Prime 95.00-120.00; Choice 80.00-105.00; Good 65.00-85.00, few 110-130 lbs. 60.00-67.00;

90-110 lbs. 50.00-62.00; 70-90 lbs. 40.00-55.00; Utility 55-100 lbs. 30.00-50.00

FARM CALVES: Hol. Bulls 90-135 lbs. 65.00-110.00; few Hol. Heifers 90-125 lbs. 60.00-80.00.

HOGS: 6602. Compared with 8473 head last week and 8124 head a year ago. Barrows and gilts .50-1.50 higher. US No. 1-2 210-250 lbs. 46.00-49.00. No. 1-3 200-260 lbs. 45.00-48.00; few No. 2-3 230-280 lbs. 42.00-46.50; No. 1-3 150-190 lbs. 38.00-46.00; Sows steady to 5.00 higher. US No. 1-3 300-700 lbs. 38.00-50.00; few No. 2-3 400-750 lbs. 35.00-41.00. Boars 26.00-36.00.

FEEDER PIGS 819. Compared with 825 head last week and 831 a year ago. Mostly steady. (few) US No. 1-3 20-35 lbs. 17.00-31.00 per head; No. 1-3 35-50 lbs. 20.00-44.00; No. 1-3 50-70 lbs. 52.00-56.00.

3 GRADED FEEDER PIG SALES: 1390. Compared with 2002 head last week, and 1734 head a year ago. All sales by CWT. Feeder Pigs uneven, extremes 11.00 higher to 8.00 lower. US No. 1-2 25-40 lbs. 100.00-127.00, 40-50 lbs. 86.00-105.00, 50-60 lbs. 79.00-100.00, 60-75 lbs. 73.00-91.00; US No. 2-3 35-50 lbs. 70.00-101.00, 50-70 lbs. 66.00-69.00.

SHEEP: 865. Compared with 693 head last week and 1240 head a year ago. Woolled sl. lambs mostly steady. High Choice & Prime 70-110 lb. woolled lambs 65.00-75.00; Choice 60-115 lbs. 60.00-70.00; Good 60-100 55.00-65.00

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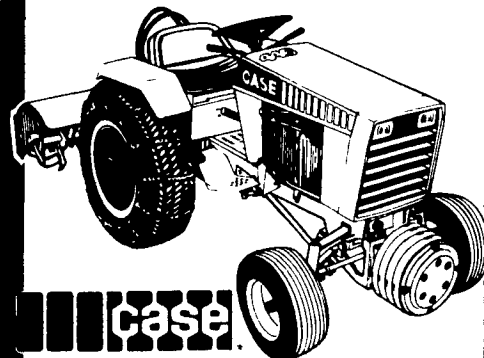
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